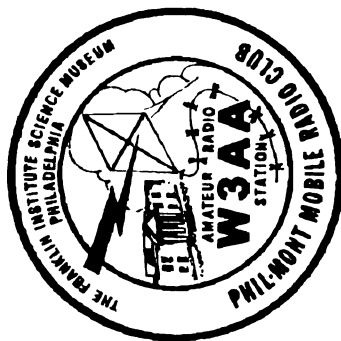


The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114



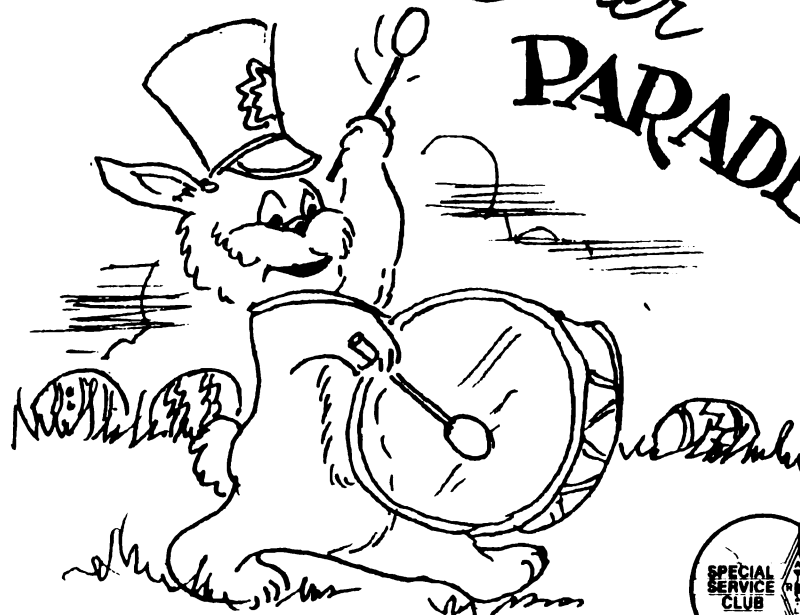
FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Blurb

APRIL
2000



The Easter **PARADE**



AN APOLOGY TO WALT KELLY

Public Service Since 1949



The *Blurb*

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—registration finishes at 6 p.m. doors close at 6:30 PM—*SHARP!*

Blurb STAFF

Editor: Dean M. Spare, N3TAL

P.O. Box 575 Marlton, New Jersey 08053

n3tal@erols.com

Artist: N3QIE (507th issue)

Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Deadline To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the month, the month before publication.

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

Internet Web site: <http://www.phil-mont.org>

E-mail: info@phil-mont.org

2-meter repeater: 147.03 MHz p/l 91.5

Additional off-site receivers:

Southampton —Center City —Lansdale —Broomall

70-cm repeater: 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex: 147.51 MHz

24-hour club information at W3AA: 215-448-1139

STATIONS

W3AA - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3j; Manager: W3STW

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

W3AA packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3AA e-mail: w3aa@phil-mont.org

W3EM - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3AOK, William H. Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Phila., Pa 19128; 215-487-9472

billpopovic@msn.com —

n3fvi@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

06 Pat Rush - WT3X

08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)

10 Paulette Simek (XYL N3YNH*)

15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)

Bob DiPasquale - WB3KAB

18 Patricia Sullivan (XYL N3QMH)

19 Carl Owens - WB0CPR

20 Shelly Miller (XYL W3SV)

21 Laura Lusky (XYL W3APD)

22 Russ Miller - K3NYP

25 Fred Lamberti - KE3NP

27 Bunny DiPasquale (XYL WB3KAB)

Carl Vold - W3SGR

28 Gwen Patton - KB3DVJ*

John Paulson - N3VIF

Rik Richenbach - WE3D

*Indicates new member 1999-2000

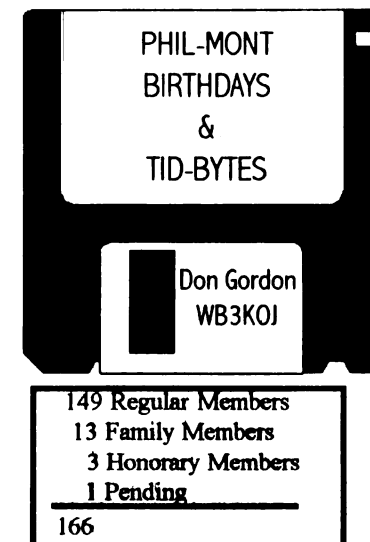
HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact Mike Tannenbaum, K2BN, for details.

NEW DIRECTORY

With this BLURB you received your Y2K P.M.R.C. Directory. If there are any errors in your listing please let me know and the corrections will be printed in this column next month. The revised listing will also appear in the fall supplement.

To Late for the Directory: Add N2RM — same information as last year.



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the Philadelphia Area Repeater Association for their 30th year anniversary!

They will be celebrating their anniversary with the PARafest on May 16th.

Club president this year is: Gene Mitchell K3DSM.

Please join Atlantic Division Director, Bernie Fuller N3EFN and me in wishing the very best for this club's continued success.

- Bill Edgar N3LLR

Atlantic Division Vice Director

“DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT”—for the courtesy ☸!

SKYWARN PIONEER SHERMAN C. CARR, W9NGT, SK

The man credited with being the father of SKYWARN—Sherman Carr, W9NGT, of Hartford, Wisconsin—died March 15. He was 83. Carr was an ARRL member for nearly 40 years. Begun more than 30 years ago, SKYWARN is a cooperative effort through which real-time weather information is relayed via Amateur Radio to NWS offices during severe weather conditions. Carr was Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator in the late 1960s when he established the first Amateur Radio weather-spotting network, the Weather Amateur Radio Network—WARN—with assistance from Dave Theophilus, W9KWQ, a NWS meteorologist in Milwaukee. In those largely pre-repeater days, the network operated on 75 meters. Carr's idea worked so well that other states adopted its basic structure, which eventually was implemented as SKYWARN. Last June, the National Weather Service honored Carr for his role in helping to create the SKYWARN program by presenting him with its Central Region Special Service Award. Wisconsin's current SEC Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, called Carr "as much a pioneer as the first astronaut."
"Carr leaves a legacy of creativity, incredible dedication and innovation in emergency communications, in technical excellence, and thousands of friends who will remember his chuckle and his grin," said Wisconsin ARRL Public Information Officer Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ. Survivors include his wife, Marianne,

and sons Mike and Sheldon. Visitation for Sherman Carr, W9NGT, will be Saturday, March 18, 1:30-5:30 PM at the Shimon Funeral Home, 824 Union, Hartford. The service will immediately follow the visitation.—Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

SOLAR UPDATE

Solar sage Tad Cook, K7VVV, reports: Average solar flux was down slightly, and average sunspot numbers rose over the past week. There were no really disturbed days, but the geomagnetic field was active on March 12.

Solar flux has been declining this week and is expected to reach a short-term minimum near 170 from March 19 to 21. Flux values should quickly rise to another short term peak that is expected to be very broad. Solar flux should be around 220 from March 25 through April 4.

The projected solar flux for the next five days, Friday through Tuesday, is 180, 175, 170, 170 and 170. Planetary A index for these same days is expected to be 8, 8, 8, 8 and 12. Upcoming dates that may be disturbed are March 22-24, March 31 and April 1, and April 18 and 19.

Sunspot numbers for March 9 through 15 were 225, 231, 178, 188, 172, 193 and 167 with a mean of 193.4. The 10.7-cm flux was 205.8 203.4, 203.2, 203.2, 188.1, 182.6 and 177.8, with a mean of 194.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 10, 12, 19, 4, 6 and 3, with a mean of 8.4.

VICE PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY: N3PVO, Carol L. Sebzda, 761 North Hills Ave., Ardsley, PA 19038; 215-884-5518

n3pvo@aol.com

TREASURER: K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025; 215-542-5991

k2bn@agtannenbaum.com packet: K2BN@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN; **Audit:** KE3OP; **Awards:** AA3EP; **Blurb folding:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH; **Budget:**

K3KUD; **Directory:** WB3KOJ & W3IIM; **DX:** OPEN; **Education:** W3CH;

Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE; **Field Day:** WU3I; **Internet:** W3IIM; **Membership:**

W3LEN; **Net Control:** KB3IV; **Publicity:** W3RM Program: W3LEN; **Public**

Service: AA3EP; **Refreshments:** W3AOK; **Repeater:** W3BBB; **Skywarn:** N3LCV;

Special Events: N3WCO; **Sunshine:** WU3I; **Youth:** KE3ZY; **TVI:** W3VVS; **VE**

Program: ND3Q; **W3AA Trustee:** WU3I; **W3AA Station Manager:** W3STW;

Welcome: K3CJ.

DIRECTORS

WU3I (00); W3RM (00); KB3IV (00); W3STW (01); W3BBB (01); N3MT (01); N3XKE (A)

NET SCHEDULE

Sunday morning 2 Meter Net 09:30 147.030 Mhz FM

Sunday morning "10-on-10" Net 10:00 28.393 Mhz SSB (+ or - for QRM)

Tuesday CW Practice Net 20:00 147.030MHz FM

Check Your Address

The FCC has issued a warning letter to an amateur who did not have his/her current address for their amateur license on file with the FCC.

Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC has mentioned that he will be issuing warning letters to those, that the FCC becomes aware of, that don't have their current address on file with the FCC.

If your address is not correct with the FCC, you are STRONGLY urged to update it now!! Please also convey this information to your club members at the next club meeting and perhaps an article in your club newsletter would be appropriate.

Bernie Fuller N3EFN, Atlantic Division Director

Bill Edgar N3LLR, Atlantic Division Vice Director

UPCOMING

April 9- Sunday, Ridley Creek State Park

Moorestown High School

May 7- Sunday

Phila. Museum of Art

Valley Forge Nat. Park

Tyler State Park

Kerr State Park

Main Street Voorhees, NJ.

A.C. Boardwalk A.C. NJ.

May 20- Saturday, Chester County

Challenge for Cancer in West Chester

June 10 & 11- PA. Dutch MS-150

Morgantown, Pa.

September 23 and 24

City to Shore MS-150

Cherry Hill, NJ to Ocean City, NJ

December 3- Brian's Run

West Chester, Pa.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP

Phone 610-323-1050

Packet aa3p@w3ch #sepa pa usa noam

E-mail aa3ep@aol.com

Russ Stafford, W3CT

Phone (610) 631-3401 ext 902

Packet w3ch@w3ch #sepa pa usa noam

E-mail w3ch@hdt.com

VE Test Locations

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must show two other types of ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 2000 test fee is \$6.65. There is no charge for a Novice test.

• **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**

Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q

215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours

• **BELLMAWR, NJ**

Diane Nafis

609-227-6281

• **BRISTOL**

George LeNoir

215-943-4886

• **LEVITTOWN, PA**

David L. Heller, 215-946-1040

• **LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)**

Russ Stafford, W3CH

610-631-3401 x902

• **TELFORD**

Joseph Burgess

215-723-6697

• **UNIVERSITY OF PA**

Jeff DePolo

215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home

• **WARMINSTER**

Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ

(215) 343-3494

• **WILMINGTON**

Ciselle Walls

302-478-2757

177th Monthly

Phil-Mont VE Test Session Statistics for March, 2000

Forty-nine (49) candidates took sixty-two (62) elements. We had five (5) new amateurs with three (3) upgrades.

The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads (ND3Q). Members are: ; Bob Freer, W3YLT; Jim McCloskey, NS3K; Pete Butler, WB2B; Jeff Kerber, N3VE; Carol Hutkin, K2BL; Brad Blicik, KB8PPA; Mike Collins, N1ZE

Exam Dates for the year 2000:

April 13 (second Thursday); May 4; June 6;

August 10 (second Thursday)

Twenty-one amateurs took advantage of the new restructuring rules and qualified for upgrades before the deadline of April 15th. On April 15th their upgrades will become official.

It seems obvious that the new licensing has effected the VE test sessions.

The pool of questions for elements 2, 3 and 4

can be found at :

arri.org/arrivec/pools.html

PHASE 3D SHIPPING COSTS APPROACH \$25,000

Citing information provided by Richard Limebear, G3RWL, on the RSGB News Service on behalf of AMSAT-UK, AMSAT News Service reports the cost of transporting the Phase 3D satellite to its launch site approached \$25,000. The Phase-3D spacecraft has a tentative launch opportunity aboard Ariane 507, now set for late July. The satellite is in its packing case in a clean room at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, awaiting the start of the launch campaign.

The AMSAT-UK Phase 3D fund paid \$23,739 to cover costs of shipping Phase 3D from Atlanta to Kourou. The \$1000 cost of trucking the satellite from the Orlando Integration Lab to the Atlanta airport was met by AMSAT-ZL. "It is assistance such as this, from these AMSAT organizations, that really makes Phase 3D a truly international effort, not only in technical aspects but also providing a financial partnership," AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, told ANS.

Last year, the AMSAT-UK Phase-3D fund also presented AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF, with a check for \$13,340 to purchase thermal blankets for the spacecraft.—AMSAT News Service

Satellites continued from page 14

are reporting nominal performance. StenSat, which is a satellite within another satellite—OPAL—is set to be put into space this weekend, Heidt said.

ASUSat and JAWSAT have Amateur Radio capability, but the tiny, eight-ounce StenSat is strictly a ham satellite—designed by hams, for hams. It was developed by a group of amateur enthusiasts in the Washington, DC, area as part of Stanford University's OPAL project.

StenSat will operate as a single-channel Mode J FM voice repeater. The uplink frequency will be 145.84 MHz; the downlink will be 436.625 MHz. StenSat will periodically transmit 1200 baud AX.25 for telemetry. Additionally, amateur radio operators will be able to "ping" the satellite by transmitting a six-digit DTMF command to the receiver uplink. More information on StenSat is available at <http://users.erols.com/hheidt/>.

ASUSat will contain amateur packet hardware and a 2-meter/70-cm FM voice repeater. ASUSat1 is an ASU NASA Space Grant project and Arizona State University's first student-designed satellite. Information on ASUSat is available at <http://nasa.asu.edu/asusat/>. (from ARRL members website)

LEAGUE FILES PARTIAL RECONSIDERATION PETITION

The ARRL has formally asked the FCC to reconsider and modify two aspects of its December 30, 1999, Report and Order that restructured the Amateur Radio rules. The League wants the FCC to continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has Morse code element credit. It also seeks

permanent Morse element credit for any Amateur Radio applicant who has ever passed an FCC-recognized Morse exam of at least 5 WPM.

The League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the WT Docket 98-143 proceeding was filed March 13.

The League suggested that it would be less of an administrative burden for the FCC to maintain the Technician database as it has been doing. The database now identifies Technician and Tech Plus licensees by encoding the records with a "T" or a "P" respectively. The ARRL also said the inability to identify those Technicians that have HF privileges and those who do not could hamper voluntary enforcement efforts. It further suggested it would be wrong to put the burden of proof of having passed the Morse examination on licensees.

The League cited the demands of fairness in asking the FCC to afford Morse element credit to all applicants who have ever passed an FCC-recognized 5 WPM code exam. The rules already grant Element 1 credit to those holding an expired or unexpired FCC-issued Novice license or an expired or unexpired Technician Class operator license document granted before February 14, 1991. It also grants Element 1 credit to applicants possessing an FCC-issued commercial radiotelegraph operator license or permit that's valid or expired less than 5 years.

The League has asked the FCC to "conform the rules" to give similar credit to those who once held General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses.

(ARRL Letter)

Minutes

MARCH DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The March Directors' Meeting was opened at 7:15 p.m. by Bill (W3AOK). The following were in attendance: Bill (W3AOK), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Ed (KB3IV), Al (W3STW), Mike (N3MT), Gene (N3XKE), and Dusty (ND3Q). The following reports were given.

DUES - The list of people who have not paid their dues was reviewed. Unfortunately we have lost some members for various reasons. If you have not paid your dues, please do so now.

NEW BUSINESS - Bill (W3AOK) read a letter from Len (W3LEN) resigning his position as Vice President, due to family priorities. A motion was made and seconded to accept his resignation with deep regrets.. Len has been a very active and valued participant in the club. We wish him well and understand family comes first. A replacement will be appointed by the Board.

TREASURER - Mike (K2BN) reported the gross receipts for the month of February is from the membership dues. The membership receipts are running behind last year. The Blurb came in a little higher this year than last year. Year to date we are behind in gross receipts from last year. W3AA fund receipts are down significantly, therefore the club will have to subsidize W3AA's expenses. If you would like to contribute to the W3AA fund, please send your check to Mike (K2BN).

BUDGET - The budget committee has passed a budget for the year.

AUDIT - An audit is being planned.

SOCIAL EVENTS - Ideas were tossed around for the annual club picnic. One idea is a location within the Fort Washington State Park near the Field Day site it would be held on the Sunday of Field Day. It will be subsidized by the Club. Ideas are welcome from the membership. Contact Mike (N3MT) with your ideas. Your ideas and help are needed to make the picnic a success.

REPEATER - Rick (N3DHI) approached the Board with the idea of having the repeater in PL (91.5) full time. The consensus of the Board was that there has been enough transition time and the idea needs to be brought before the membership. The repeater would be open for the nets and the PL would be published in the next repeater directory.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made and approved at 7:55 p.m. to close the meeting.

THE W 3 A A REPORT

Through the team work of N3PSO, Paul and KB3BYT, Rob, the F.I.S.M. Camp-In has been well supported. Rob usually supports the Camp-In on Friday nights and Paul on Saturday nights. Paul designed a Morse Code tutor and both he and Rob have had great success in using it to familiarize the Camp-In visitors with Morse Code. If you have not seen this novel way of familiarizing yourself with the dots and dashes that the Morse Code uses, you really should stop by W3AA and see this novel idea. To come up with an idea and have it not only accepted by your peers, but used by them is commendable.

By the way you should know that Rob is an avid QRP cw operator and Paul's idea fits right into the scheme of things. If you think about it give W3AA a call on the W3QV repeater some Friday or Saturday evening. The frequency is 147.03. The shift + 600 kc and the pl is 91.5. Thank you Paul and Rob.

I am happy to report the W3AA QSL cards have finally arrived. If you promised a QSL please honor your pledge. However, I also ask we not initiate QSL cards. Kudos to K3TPM, Bud for his help in diminishing the W3AA QSL card backlog.

K3EUI, Barry, donated and helped to install a 20m vertical antenna to the SSTV system. This donation provides vertical polarization and the 10-80 meter Windom provides horizontal polarization, which should improve our SSTV reception.

Barry has also agreed to look at the Drake receiver to determine what is wrong

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

see W3AA continued on page 7

DX

This bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The 599Rpt, QRZ DX, The Daily DX, 425 DX News and Contest Corral from QST.

EAST TIMOR, 4W. Ross, VK8UN, has been authorized to use 4W6UN from this new DXCC entity. His activity of late has been on 20 and 10 meters. Thor, TF1MM, is now licensed as 4W6MM. QSL 4W6UN via VK3OT. 4W6MM QSL route to be announced.

MONACO, 3A. Look for 3A/W8MV and 3A/WZ8A to be QRV from March 20 to 25 using CW on 80 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

VIETNAM, 3W. 3W50K has been QRV on 10 meters using CW and SSB around 0000z. QSL via OKDXF.

ALGERIA, 7X. Angel, 7X0AD, will occasionally show up on 20 meters using RTTY between 1600 and 2000z. QSL via EA4URE.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Peter, HA2SX, is active as 8Q7KK until March 25 while on holiday. Operations are on 80 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, Hellschreiber and MT63. QSL to home call.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, CE0Z. OH2MXS, OH2NSM and OH3JF will be active as homecalls/CE0Z from March 17 to April 8. They will operate with three stations on all bands with an emphasis on CW and RTTY and some SSB. QSL to home calls.

ETHIOPIA, ET. ET3AA is usually QRV on 15 meters around 0930z.

THAILAND, HS. Kurt, HS0ZBS, is usually QRV around 28010 kHz daily starting around 0000z.

SVALBARD, JW. Jan, LA5QFA will be active mainly on 160 and 80 meters using SSB as JW5QFA on March 17 to 20. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Operator Dave is QRV as KC4AAA from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station until November, 2000. Look for him on 14243 kHz around 0500z. QSL via K1IED.

WAKE ISLAND, KH4. Randy will be QRV as KH9/KH7EH March 22 to 24. He will be active in his spare time, and may be found on 20, 10 and 6 meters. QSL to home call.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Seppo is QRV as OJ0VR and has been found on 80 and 40 meters using CW between 1930 and 2100z. QSL via OH1VR.

SURINAME, PZ. Ramon, PZ5RA, is active on 20 meters using RTTY after 0400z.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Bill, AA7X, will be QRV from Virgin Gordo, March 25 to April 1 as VP2V/AA7X. Activity is centered around 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

Points to Ponder

How has the recent restructuring of Amateur Radio impacted our Club? What club activities has the ruling spawned?

If you check the stats for the VE's you will see that last month we had a very large turnout. But is our club doing anything specifically to increase membership as a result of the new restructuring?

Our club should form a special committee to look into different ways of stimulating membership. We could possibly have an amateur radio demonstration at a mall. We could advertise an open house and have a demonstration of all the things you can do in amateur radio. I'm sure that over the years all of these ideas and many more have been tried, some more successful than others.

But, now it is different! Whether you think the requirements to be an amateur have caused the "dumbing down" of amateur radio or not is unimportant. This is a golden opportunity to increase membership and deserves special attention. As a club we can be proud of all our accomplishments, but more importantly we can be proud of our outstanding members. (editor)

.....

Three Amateur Radio Satellites Rocket Into Space

An Air Force Minotaur rocket lifted off right on schedule January 26 from the new California Commercial Spaceport at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Three Amateur Radio satellite packages were aboard. Two of the satellites already have been deployed and are said to be working. A third amateur picosat package will be deployed over the weekend. The primary payload is the US Air Force Academy's Falconsat. JAWSAT—Joint Air Force-Weber State University Satellite—served as a bus for several deployable payloads and the Plasma Experiment Satellite Test experiment—PEST. The telemetry stream from JAWSAT, including data from

PEST, will be transmitted on Amateur Radio frequencies. Amateur Radio operators have been invited to contribute to the program by recording the downlinked data. Data from PEST will require using either a G3RUH modem or a GMSK modem. Data rates should be as high as 38.4 kb/s. Data will be transmitted on 437.175 MHz or 2403.2 MHz. NASA says it will publish instructions for sending in data so the PEST team can use it.

Deployable payloads aboard JAWSAT are Stanford University's Orbiting Picosat Automatic Launcher—or OPAL: Arizona State University's ASUSat, and the Air Force Research Lab's Optical Calibration Sphere.

Hank Heidt, N4AFL, of the StenSat team said today that both JAWSAT and ASUSat appear to be working perfectly at this time, with telemetry indicating that all systems

see *Satellites* continued on page 16

Minutes

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The March General Meeting was opened at approximately 8:00 p.m. by Bill (W3AOK). Bill announced the resignation of Len (W3LEN) as Vice President and conveyed our appreciation for all of the hard work Len has done for the club over the years. Due to the cancellation of the program speaker the meeting was changed to a town meeting, therefore there were no formal reports from committees, instead the following members held discussions:

Dusty (ND3Q) took us through the new license changes that will take effect in April and answered questions.

Al (W3STW) talked about W3AA.

Mike (N3MT) talked about one idea for the club picnic and opened a discussion for ideas from those in attendance.

Charlie (AA3EP) gave us an overview of the upcoming public service events.

Rick (N3DHI) took us through some of the changes which have occurred with the repeater.

Hope to see you all next month at the April General Meeting.

W3AA continued from page 6

with the pilot light. In place of the Drake receiver Barry has donated a PC with a Morse Code training program. By selecting from a menu on the screen, various code groups and FCC style messages can be selected at various speeds. This is a hands on exhibit for the visitors.

I am glad to see N3OWM, Ted, back at W3AA on Sunday mornings. And thank you K3CJ, Charlye for filling in Sunday March 12. Many thanks to KB3CPC, Richard, for getting new ink cartridges for the HP printer. Thank you to the month of March volunteers that have come to the F.I.S.M., to keep the W3AA exhibit open.

73 W3STW, Al.

Blurb Deadline Changes

In order for the Editor and staff of the Blurb to publish a useful, timely newsletter we need all material, to be published, sent in on time. From now on all material must be in the hands of the editor by the **20th of the month** — **no exceptions**. If material is received any later the whole process is rushed. Anyone having any questions, please contact the editor by snail mail or e-mail. (N3tal)

The PREZ SEZ



How is your backup power supply?

March 20, 2000, New Mexico suffered what could be the largest power loss in the state's history Saturday. Amateur Radio operators stood by to fill the communication gap as the outage, being blamed on a grass fire, left thousands without power.

WSPDY, says the three major power lines from the Electric Power Plant were knocked out when a fire downed a major power line. The outage subsequently took out a major power generating unit. "In a domino effect, most of the state of New Mexico, a small part of southern Colorado and part of El Paso, Texas, were out," he explained. Thanks to emergency power, hams and repeaters remained operational.

"Needless to say, there were no cell phones, and the 911 system was jammed," Knight said. ARES/RACES was activated and in full operation through both local and linked repeaters throughout the state. "Operators were cautioned to transmit only for emergency traffic in order to conserve our battery power on the linked repeater system. Since the shopping malls, grocery stores, restaurants filling stations and traffic lights were down.

Two broadcast radio stations, KOB AM and KDEF AM had emergency power generators which kicked in. Knight reported that the New Mexico State Emergency Operations Center and the Albuquerque EOC were on line using power from emergency generators.

"There were several traffic accidents and a few burglaries, but the hospitals all operated on emergency power," Knight reported. Approximately 1.3 million people were without power for about three or four hours following the outage, which began around 4:30 PM Mountain Time.

"It was certainly a wakeup call for amateurs in the affected areas," said Knight. A backup power system doesn't have to be elaborate or expensive. My first system consisted of a reconditioned car battery and a 25amp-DPDT switch. Total investment \$25. I now have a generator and a UPS. Today, many businesses will toss a UPS (uninterruptible power supply), rather than replace the battery. They often turn up at hamfests or keep an eye on those dumpsters.

DE W3AOK 73

ATLANTIC DIVISION HAMFEST CALENDAR

- APR 9 + Two Rivers ARC - Monroeville, PA
- APR 29 Champlain Valley ARC - Plattsburgh, NY
- APR 30 + Penn-Del ARC - New Castle, DE Delaware State Convention
- APR 30 WACOM - PA
- MAY 6 Binghamton ARA - Owego, NY
- MAY 7 + Antietam RA - Hagerstown, MD
- MAY 7 + Warminster ARC - Wrightstown, PA
- MAY 28 Maryland FM Assn - West Friendship, MD
- JUN 2-4+ Rochester Hamfest - Rochester, NY Atlantic Division Convention
- JUN 4 + Breezeshooters - Butler, PA
- JUN 10 + Columbia-Montour ARC - Bloomsburg, PA Eastern PA Section Convention
- JUL 2 + Murgas ARC - Dallas, PA
- JUL 9 + North Hills ARC - Pittsburgh, PA
- JUL 16 + Mid-Atlantic ARC / Valley Forge Hamfest - Kimberton, PA
- JUL 30 + BRATS - Timonium, MD
- AUG 5 Tompkins County ARC - NY
- AUG 13 + Jersey Shore ARS - Bayville, NJ
- AUG 27 + Skyview Radio Society - New Kensington, PA
- SEP 9 Radio Assn of Erie - Erie, PA
- SEP 10 + Butler Co. ARA - Butler, PA SEP 23 + Buffalo Hamfest - Hamburg, NY Western NY Section Convention
- SEP 28-30+ Microwave Update 2000 Conference - Trevoise, PA Specialty Convention
- SEP 30 ARA of the Southern Tier - Horseheads, NY
- OCT 1 Pack Rats - Wrightstown, PA
- OCT 22 + RF Hill ARC - Sellersville, PA

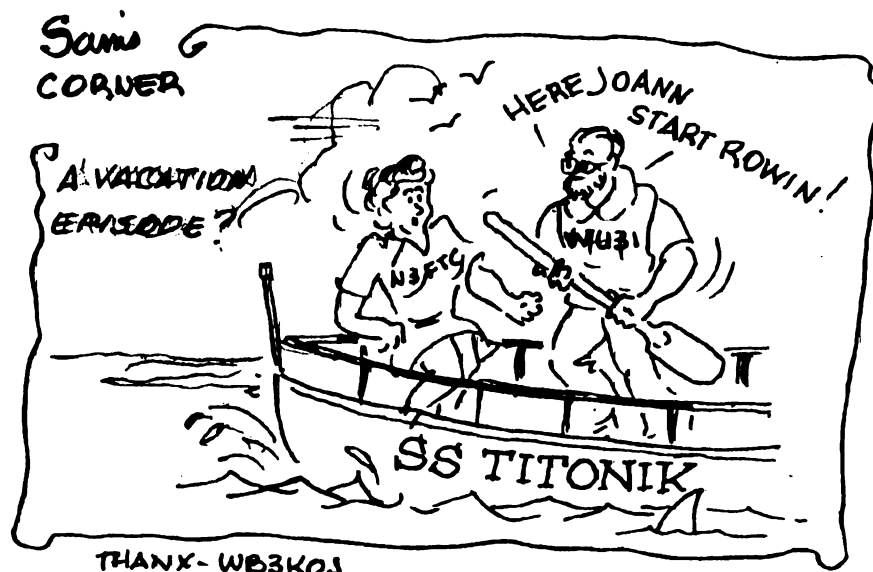
** Visit the Atlantic Division Web page at <http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/index.htm>

+ indicates ARRL Hamfest

Voter continued from page 9

of use. N3DHI is the expert on audio response and path loss for the project. Southampton is up, Lansdale will be up shortly, and Center city is in the final stages. Our repeater move has improved the reception at Roxboro tremendously, but we hope the voting system will fill many of the voids in our coverage. Our hope is that you will be able to operate your mobile or H/T anywhere within the range of our W3QV transmitter and be heard.Q5. (submitted by W3BBB)

Sam's
CORNER



Check-in on Phil-Mont's 10—0n—10—Net

Here is a nice story about one Sunday's Philmont Mobile Radio Club 10-on-10 Net. For several months, as a Sunday morning operator of W3AA, I have become the net control station for the Philmont Mobile Radio Club 10-on-10 Net. Prior to that, I have invited all of my friends to check into the net to keep in touch and to promote a return to HF operation. To my surprise, two friends showed up last week, WA3JMV, Stan and Mark, NK8Q, an avid Pack-Rat UHF'er. Stan was working on his 10 Ten-Ten contacts to become an initiate and what a better place than Delaware Valley's premiere 10 meter net.

As the check-ins increased, Stan's needs diminished. Surprisingly, NK8Q, had partaken of this HF ritual and helped to bring Stan within one QSO of his requirement. As we worked down the roster, there were no new check-ins and Stan might need to go for a CQ. Off the back of the Mosley Bean an F5 called to check-in, and he had a Ten-Ten number. Stan was on his way to more wallpaper.

The 10-on-10 net meets every Sunday at 1000EST on 28.393 MHz +/- QRM/QRN. In case of a contest weekend, check 28.993 MHz. Recently, I had a 10 meter QSO with a midwest station. We exchanged the same RS report, 5x0. When that band is quiet, a signal may not move the meter, but you can be DFQ. 73's de WA3CRM

Our New Voter System for the Repeater

What's all this fuss about a voting system? What will it do to improve the W3QV repeater? How much will it cost Phil-Mont? Who is going to make it work and maintain it? I'll try to explain the theory behind it and the possible benefits to us. Our interest in a voting system began while we were still located at 8200 Ridge Ave. Most mobiles were hearing the transmitter well in an area bounded by Chester, Trenton, Buckingham, Souderton, and Pottstown. But even

a 50 watt mobile with a quarter wave antenna was having trouble accessing the machine reliably from many points within these boundaries. H/Ts in center city were plagued by tall buildings and their reflections and shielding. If we could install additional rcvrs to feed Roxboro, perhaps some of these voids could be filled in.

The basic premise is that a perfect voting system is transparent, so you can't tell which input is being used at any given moment. The actual practice never reaches perfection, because of down-link path loss, etc. We elected to install off-site rcvrs at CHI, Southampton, PA, 23 stories up at Center City, Lansdale, PA, and CHI, Broomall, PA. Broomall has since been shut down because of a lease expiration, but will be replaced, eventually. Each off-site required the use of a different P/L tone to gain access. It's called P/L steering. It works, but requires constant changing of P/L tones to follow the route of the mobile. Better but not ideal. In addition, we were using our UHF rpt frequency for down link use. Not only frowned upon by the coordinators, but because of an in-

verted split rpt in New York; many of our offsites suffered from interference when New York was in operation. Down-links are specified in the 432 Mhz region, are point to point with beams, and are coordinated to eliminate interference.

We purchased GE MVP mobile units capable of these frequencies for down-link transmitters. Off-site rcvrs will all be P/L protected on 91.5 Hz while the main site in Roxboro can

hopefully remain non-P/L for itinerant use. Any mobile using 91.5 P/L will access one or all of the off-site rcvrs and that audio will be down-linked to a voting chassis at the main site. The voter selects which off-site to repeat based on a comparison of the signal-to-noise ratio. Hopefully we will be able to identify which off-site is in use on each transmission. In any event, when the system is working, the voter will select which off-site is best for repeating and use that audio fed to the output. The down side of such a system is that it is conceivable that a fixed station may open all offsite rcvrs activating all off-site transmitters during his operation. Even though all off-site transmitters are operating, the voting system uses only one of the down-links for repeat. This reduces transmitter life. Considerable work is required to make audio response and signal equal for all down-link paths. I have done the mechanical work of putting together the rcvrs and tx units including control, time-out, and ID functions. Even though you may never hear it, each down-link tx is identified once ever 10 minutes

see *Voter* continued on page 13

Even a 50 watt mobile with a quarter wave antenna was having trouble accessing the machine reliably from many points.

2000

APRIL

2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time begins 2M NCS WB3KOJ 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS W3PWG	3	4 Code Practice 8PM WA3NSP	5	6	7	8
9 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS W3STW	10	11 Code Practice 8PM W3AOK	12 Board Meeting Starts at 7:00 General Meeting Starts at 7:30 both held at the Franklin Institute	13 LICENSE EXAM Session at The Franklin Institute Registration at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. sharp!	14 Booth shot Lincoln, 1865	15 Income Tax Day
16 Palm Sunday 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS KB3IV	17	18 Code Practice 8PM W3RM Full Moon	19	20 First Day of Passover <i>Blurb DEADLINE!</i>	21 Good Friday	22
23 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS KB3IV	24	25 Code Practice 8PM WA3NSP	26	27	28	29 April — Named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love.
30 2M NCS W3BBB 10M NCS W3AA 75M NCS W3BBB						